

五言絕句

王維

鹿柴

空山不見人， 但聞人語響。
返景入深林， 復照青苔上。

Five-character-quatrain

Wang Wei

DEER-PARK HERMITAGE

There seems to be no one on the empty mountain....
And yet I think I hear a voice,
Where sunlight, entering a grove,
Shines back to me from the green moss.

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五言絕句

王維

竹里館

獨坐幽篁裡， 彈琴復長嘯。
深林人不知， 明月來相照。

Five-character-quatrain

Wang Wei

IN A RETREAT AMONG BAMBOOS

Leaning alone in the close bamboos,
I am playing my lute and humming a song
Too softly for anyone to hear --
Except my comrade, the bright moon.

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五言絕句

王維

送別

山中相送罷， 日暮掩柴扉。
春草明年綠， 王孫歸不歸。

Five-character-quatrain

Wang Wei

A PARTING

Friend, I have watched you down the mountain
Till now in the dark I close my thatch door....
Grasses return again green in the spring,
But O my Prince of Friends, do you?

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五言絕句

王維

相思

紅豆生南國， 春來發幾枝。
願君多采擷， 此物最相思。

Five-character-quatrain

Wang Wei

ONE-HEARTED

When those red berries come in springtime,
Flushing on your southland branches,
Take home an armful, for my sake,
As a symbol of our love.

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五言絕句

王維

雜詩

君自故鄉來， 應知故鄉事。
來日綺窗前， 寒梅著花未。

Five-character-quatrain

Wang Wei

LINES

You who have come from my old country,
Tell me what has happened there ! --
Was the plum, when you passed my silken window,
Opening its first cold blossom?

229

五言絕句

裴迪

送崔九

歸山深淺去， 須盡丘壑美。
莫學武陵人， 暫遊桃源裡。

Five-character-quatrain

Pei Di

A FAREWELL TO CUI

Though you think to return to this maze of mountains,
Oh, let them brim your heart with wonder!....
Remember the fisherman from Wuling
Who had only a day in the Peach-Blossom Country.

230

五言絕句

祖詠

終南望餘雪

終南陰嶺秀， 積雪浮雲端。
林表明霽色， 城中增暮寒。

Five-character-quatrain

Zu Young

ON SEEING THE SNOW-PEAK OF ZHONGNAN

See how Zhongnan Mountain soars
With its white top over floating clouds --
And a warm sky opening at the snow-line
While the town in the valley grows colder and colder.

231

五言絕句

孟浩然

宿建德江

移舟泊煙渚， 日暮客愁新。

野曠天低樹， 江清月近人。

Five-character-quatrain

Meng Haoran

A NIGHT-MOORING ON THE JIANDE RIVER

While my little boat moves on its mooring of mist,
And daylight wanes, old memories begin....
How wide the world was, how close the trees to heaven,
And how clear in the water the nearness of the moon!

232

五言絕句

孟浩然

春曉

春眠不覺曉， 處處聞啼鳥。
夜來風雨聲， 花落知多少。

Five-character-quatrain

Meng Haoran

A SPRING MORNING

I awake light-hearted this morning of spring,
Everywhere round me the singing of birds --
But now I remember the night, the storm,

And I wonder how many blossoms were broken.

233

五言絕句

李白

夜思

床前明月光， 疑是地上霜。
舉頭望明月， 低頭思故鄉。

Five-character-quatrain

Li Bai

IN THE QUIET NIGHT

So bright a gleam on the foot of my bed --
Could there have been a frost already?
Lifting myself to look, I found that it was moonlight.
Sinking back again, I thought suddenly of home.

234

五言絕句

李白

怨情

美人捲珠簾， 深坐蹙蛾眉。
但見淚痕濕， 不知心恨誰。

Five-character-quatrain

Li Bai

A BITTER LOVE

How beautiful she looks, opening the pearly casement,
And how quiet she leans, and how troubled her brow is!
You may see the tears now, bright on her cheek,
But not the man she so bitterly loves.

235

五言絕句

杜甫

八陣圖

功蓋三分國， 名成八陣圖。
江流石不轉， 遺恨失吞吳。

Five-character-quatrain

Du Fu

THE EIGHT-SIDED FORTRESS

The Three Kingdoms, divided, have been bound by his greatness.

The Eight-Sided Fortress is founded on his fame;
Beside the changing river, it stands stony as his grief
That he never conquered the Kingdom of Wu.

236

五言絕句

王之渙

登鷺雀樓

白日依山盡， 黃河入海流。
欲窮千里目， 更上一層樓。

Five-character-quatrain

Wang Zhihuan

AT HERON LODGE

Mountains cover the white sun,
And oceans drain the golden river;
But you widen your view three hundred miles
By going up one flight of stairs.

237

五言絕句

劉長卿

送靈澈

蒼蒼竹林寺， 杳杳鐘聲晚。
荷笠帶斜陽， 青山獨歸遠。

Five-character-quatrain

Liu Changqing

ON PARTING WITH THE BUDDHIST PILGRIM LING CHE

From the temple, deep in its tender bamboos,
Comes the low sound of an evening bell,
While the hat of a pilgrim carries the sunset
Farther and farther down the green mountain.

238

五言絕句

劉長卿

彈琴

泠泠七絃上， 靜聽松風寒。
古調雖自愛， 今人多不彈。

Five-character-quatrain

Liu Changqing

ON HEARING A LUTE-PLAYER

Your seven strings are like the voice
Of a cold wind in the pines,
Singing old beloved songs
Which no one cares for any more.

239

五言絕句

劉長卿

送上人

孤雲將野鶴， 豈向人間住。
莫買沃洲山， 時人已知處。

Five-character-quatrain

Liu Changqing

FAREWELL TO A BUDDHIST MONK

Can drifting clouds and white storks
Be tenants in this world of ours? --
Or you still live on Wuzhou Mountain,
Now that people are coming here?

240

五言絕句

韋應物

秋夜寄邱員外

懷君屬秋夜， 散步詠涼天。
空山松子落， 幽人應未眠。

Five-character-quatrain

Wei Yingwu

AN AUTUMN NIGHT MESSAGE TO QIU

As I walk in the cool of the autumn night,
Thinking of you, singing my poem,
I hear a mountain pine-cone fall....
You also seem to be awake.

241

五言絕句

李端

聽箏

鳴箏金粟柱， 素手玉房前。
欲得周郎顧， 時時誤拂絃。

Five-character-quatrain

Li Duan

ON HEARING HER PLAY THE HARP

Her hands of white jade by a window of snow
Are glimmering on a golden-fretted harp --
And to draw the quick eye of Chou Yu,
She touches a wrong note now and then.

242

五言絕句

王建

新嫁娘

三日入廚下， 洗手作羹湯。
未諳姑食性， 先遣小姑嘗。

Five-character-quatrain

Wang Jian

A BRIDE

On the third day, taking my place to cook,
Washing my hands to make the bridal soup,
I decide that not my mother-in-law
But my husband's young sister shall have the fiat taste.

243

五言絕句

權德輿

玉臺體

昨夜裙帶解， 今朝蟪子飛。
鉛華不可棄， 莫是□砧歸。

Five-character-quatrain

Quan Deyu

THE JADE DRESSING-TABLE

Last night my girdle came undone,
And this morning a luck-beetle flew over my bed.
So here are my paints and here are my powders --
And a welcome for my yoke again.

244

五言絕句

柳宗元

江雪

千山鳥飛絕， 萬徑人蹤滅。
孤舟蓑笠翁， 獨釣寒江雪。

Five-character-quatrain

Liu Zongyuan

RIVER-SNOW

A hundred mountains and no bird,
A thousand paths without a footprint;
A little boat, a bamboo cloak,
An old man fishing in the cold river-snow.

245

五言絕句

元稹

行宮

寥落古行宮， 宮花寂寞紅。
白頭宮女在， 閒坐說玄宗。

Five-character-quatrain

Yuan Zhen

THE SUMMER PALACE

In the faded old imperial palace,
Peonies are red, but no one comes to see them....
The ladies-in-waiting have grown white-haired
Debating the pomps of Emperor Xuanzong.

246

五言絕句

白居易

問劉十九

綠蟻新醅酒， 紅泥小火爐。
晚來天欲雪， 能飲一杯無。

Five-character-quatrain

Bai Juyi

A SUGGESTION TO MY FRIEND LIU

There's a gleam of green in an old bottle,
There's a stir of red in the quiet stove,
There's a feeling of snow in the dusk outside --
What about a cup of wine inside?

247

五言絕句

張祜

何滿子

故國三千里， 深宮二十年。
一聲何滿子， 雙淚落君前。

Five-character-quatrain

Zhang Hu

SHE SINGS AN OLD SONG

A lady of the palace these twenty years,
She has lived here a thousand miles from her home-
Yet ask her for this song and, with the first few words of it,
See how she tries to hold back her tears.

248

五言絕句

李商隱

登樂遊原

向晚意不適， 驅車登古原。
夕陽無限好， 只是近黃昏。

Five-character-quatrain

Li Shangyin

THE LEYOU TOMBS

With twilight shadows in my heart
I have driven up among the Leyou Tombs
To see the sun, for all his glory,
Buried by the coming night.

249

五言絕句

賈島

尋隱者不遇

松下問童子， 言師採藥去。
只在此山中， 雲深不知處。

Five-character-quatrain

Jia Dao

A NOTE LEFT FOR AN ABSENT ECLUSE

When I questioned your pupil, under a pine-tree,
"My teacher," he answered, " went for herbs,
But toward which corner of the mountain,
How can I tell, through all these clouds ?"

250

五言絕句

李頻

渡漢江

嶺外音書絕， 經冬復立春。

近鄉情更怯， 不敢問來人。

Five-character-quatrain

Li Pin

CROSSING THE HAN RIVER

Away from home, I was longing for news
Winter after winter, spring after spring.
Now, nearing my village, meeting people,
I dare not ask a single question.

251

五言絕句

金昌緒

春怨

打起黃鶯兒， 莫教枝上啼。
啼時驚妾夢， 不得到遼西。

Five-character-quatrain

Jin Changzu

A SPRING SIGH

Drive the orioles away,
All their music from the trees....
When she dreamed that she went to Liaoxi Camp

To join him there, they wakened her

252

五言絕句

西鄙人

哥舒歌

北斗七星高， 哥舒夜帶刀。
至今窺牧馬， 不敢過臨洮。

Five-character-quatrain

Xibiren

GENERAL GE SHU

This constellation, with its seven high stars,
Is Ge Shu lifting his sword in the night:
And no more barbarians, nor their horses, nor cattle,
Dare ford the river boundary.

253

樂府

崔顥

長干行二首之一

君家何處住， 妾住在橫塘。
停船暫借問， 或恐是同鄉。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Cui Hao

A SONG OF CHANGGAN I

"Tell me, where do you live? --
Near here, by the fishing-pool?
Let's hold our boats together, let's see
If we belong in the same town."

254

樂府

崔顥

長干行二首之二

家臨九江水， 來去九江側。
同是長干人， 生小不相識。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Cui Hao

A SONG OF CHANGGAN II

"Yes, I live here, by the river;

I have sailed on it many and many a time.
Both of us born in Changgan, you and I!
Why haven't we always known each other?"

255

樂府

李白

玉階怨

玉階生白露， 夜久侵羅襪。
卻下水晶簾， 玲瓏望秋月。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Li Bai

A SIGH FROM A STAIRCASE OF JADE

Her jade-white staircase is cold with dew;
Her silk soles are wet, she lingered there so long....
Behind her closed casement, why is she still waiting,
Watching through its crystal pane the glow of the autumn moon?

256

樂府

盧綸

塞下曲四首之一

鷲翎金僕姑， 燕尾繡蝥弧。
獨立揚新令， 千營共一呼。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Lu Lun

BORDER-SONGS I

His golden arrow is tipped with hawk's feathers,
His embroidered silk flag has a tail like a swallow.
One man, arising, gives a new order
To the answering shout of a thousand tents.

257

樂府

盧綸

塞下曲四首之二

林暗草驚風， 將軍夜引弓。
平明尋白羽， 沒在石稜中。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Lu Lun

BORDER-SONGS II

The woods are black and a wind assails the grasses,
Yet the general tries night archery --
And next morning he finds his white-plumed arrow
Pointed deep in the hard rock.

258

樂府

盧綸

塞下曲四首之三

月黑雁飛高， 單于夜遁逃。
欲將輕騎逐， 大雪滿弓刀。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Lu Lun

BORDER-SONGS III

High in the faint moonlight, wildgeese are soaring.
Tartar chieftains are fleeing through the dark --
And we chase them, with horses lightly burdened
And a burden of snow on our bows and our swords.

259

樂府

盧綸

塞下曲四首之四

野幕蔽瓊筵， 羌戎賀勞旋。
醉和金甲舞， 雷鼓動山川。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Lu Lun

BORDER-SONGS IV

Let feasting begin in the wild camp!
Let bugles cry our victory!
Let us drink, let us dance in our golden armour!
Let us thunder on rivers and hills with our drums!

260

樂府

李益

江南曲

嫁得瞿塘賈， 朝朝誤妾期。
早知潮有信， 嫁與弄潮兒。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Li Yi

A SONG OF THE SOUTHERN RIVER

Since I married the merchant of Qutang
He has failed each day to keep his word....
Had I thought how regular the tide is,
I might rather have chosen a river-boy.

261

七言絕句

賀知章

回鄉偶書

少小離家老大回，鄉音無改鬢毛衰；
兒童相見不相識，笑問客從何處來。

Seven-character-quatrain

He Zhizhang

COMING HOME

I left home young. I return old;
Speaking as then, but with hair grown thin;
And my children, meeting me, do not know me.
They smile and say: "Stranger, where do you come from?"

262

七言絕句

張旭

桃花谿

隱隱飛橋隔野煙， 石磯西畔問漁船；
桃花盡日隨流水， 洞在清谿何處邊？

又作溪

Seven-character-quatrain

Zhang Xu

PEACH-BLOSSOM RIVER

A bridge flies away through a wild mist,
Yet here are the rocks and the fisherman's boat.
Oh, if only this river of floating peach-petals
Might lead me at last to the mythical cave!

263

七言絕句

王維

九月九日憶山東兄弟

獨在異鄉爲異客， 每逢佳節倍思親。
遙知兄弟登高處， 遍插茱萸少一人。

Seven-character-quatrain

Wang Wei

ON THE MOUNTAIN HOLIDAY
THINKING OF MY BROTHERS IN SHANDONG

All alone in a foreign land,
I am twice as homesick on this day
When brothers carry dogwood up the mountain,
Each of them a branch-and my branch missing.

264

七言絕句

王昌齡

芙蓉樓送辛漸

寒雨連江夜入吳， 平明送客楚山孤。
洛陽親友如相問， 一片冰心在玉壺。

Seven-character-quatrain

Wang Changling

AT HIBISCUS INN
PARTING WITH XIN JIAN

With this cold night-rain hiding the river, you have come into Wu.
In the level dawn, all alone, you will be starting for the
mountains of Chu.

Answer, if they ask of me at Loyang:
"One-hearted as ice in a crystal vase."

265

七言絕句

王昌齡

閨怨

閨中少婦不知愁，春日凝妝上翠樓。
忽見陌頭楊柳色，悔教夫婿覓封侯。

Seven-character-quatrain

Wang Changling

IN HER QUIET WINDOW

Too young to have learned what sorrow means,
Attired for spring, she climbs to her high chamber....
The new green of the street-willows is wounding her heart --
Just for a title she sent him to war.

266

七言絕句

王昌齡

春宮曲

昨夜風開露井桃， 未央前殿月輪高。
平陽歌舞新承寵， 簾外春寒賜錦袍。

Seven-character-quatrain

Wang Changling

A SONG OF THE SPRING PALACE

Last night, while a gust blew peach-petals open
And the moon shone high on the Palace Beyond Time,
The Emperor gave Pingyang, for her dancing,
Brocades against the cold spring-wind.

267

七言絕句

王翰

涼州詞

葡萄美酒夜光杯， 欲飲琵琶馬上催。
醉臥沙場君莫笑， 古來征戰幾人回。

Seven-character-quatrain

Wang Han

A SONG OF LIANGZHOU

They sing, they drain their cups of jade,
They strum on horseback their guitars.
...Why laugh when they fall asleep drunk on the sand ? --
How many soldiers ever come home?

268

七言絕句

李白

送孟浩然之廣陵

故人西辭黃鶴樓， 煙花三月下揚州。
孤帆遠影碧空盡， 惟見長江天際流。

Seven-character-quatrain

Li Bai

A FAREWELL TO MENG HAORAN
ON HIS WAY TO YANGZHOU

You have left me behind, old friend, at the Yellow Crane Terrace,
On your way to visit Yangzhou in the misty month of flowers;
Your sail, a single shadow, becomes one with the blue sky,
Till now I see only the river, on its way to heaven.

269

七言絕句

李白

下江陵

朝辭白帝彩雲間， 千里江陵一日還。
兩岸猿聲啼不住， 輕舟已過萬重山。

Seven-character-quatrain

Li Bai

THROUGH THE YANGZI GORGES

From the walls of Baidi high in the coloured dawn
To Jiangling by night-fall is three hundred miles,
Yet monkeys are still calling on both banks behind me
To my boat these ten thousand mountains away.

270

七言絕句

岑參

逢入京使

故園東望路漫漫， 雙袖龍鐘淚不乾。
馬上相逢無紙筆， 憑君傳語報平安。

Seven-character-quatrain

Cen Can

ON MEETING A MESSENGER TO THE CAPITAL

It's a long way home, a long way east.
I am old and my sleeve is wet with tears.
We meet on horseback. I have no means of writing.
Tell them three words: "He is safe."

271

七言絕句

杜甫

江南逢李龜年

岐王宅裡尋常見， 崔九堂前幾度聞。
正是江南好風景， 落花時節又逢君。

Seven-character-quatrain

Du Fu

ON MEETING LI GUINIAN DOWN THE RIVER

I met you often when you were visiting princes
And when you were playing in noblemen's halls.
...Spring passes.... Far down the river now,
I find you alone under falling petals.

272

七言絕句

韋應物

滁州西澗

獨憐幽草澗邊生， 上有黃鸝深樹鳴。
春潮帶雨晚來急， 野渡無人舟自橫。

Seven-character-quatrain

Wei Yingwu

AT CHUZHOU ON THE WESTERN STREAM

Where tender grasses rim the stream
And deep boughs trill with mango-birds,
On the spring flood of last night's rain
The ferry-boat moves as though someone were poling.

273

七言絕句

張繼

楓橋夜泊

月落烏啼霜滿天， 江楓漁火對愁眠。
姑蘇城外寒山寺， 夜半鐘聲到客船。

Seven-character-quatrain

Zhang Ji

A NIGHT-MOORING NEAR MAPLE BRIDGE

While I watch the moon go down, a crow caws through the frost;
Under the shadows of maple-trees a fisherman moves with his torch;
And I hear, from beyond Suzhou, from the temple on Cold Mountain,
Ringing for me, here in my boat, the midnight bell.

274

七言絕句

韓翃

寒食

春城無處不飛花， 寒食東風御柳斜。
日暮漢宮傳蠟燭， 輕煙散入五侯家。

Seven-character-quatrain

Han Hong

AFTER THE DAY OF NO FIRE

Petals of spring fly all through the city
From the wind in the willows of the Imperial River.
And at dusk, from the palace, candles are given out
To light first the mansions of the Five Great Lords.

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七言絕句

劉方平

月夜

更深月色半人家， 北斗闌干南斗斜。
今夜偏知春氣暖， 蟲聲新透綠窗沙。

Seven-character-quatrain

Liu Fangping

A MOONLIGHT NIGHT

When the moon has coloured half the house,
With the North Star at its height and the South Star setting,
I can feel the first motions of the warm air of spring
In the singing of an insect at my green-silk window.

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七言絕句

劉方平

春怨

紗窗日落漸黃昏， 金屋無人見淚痕。
寂寞空庭春欲晚， 梨花滿地不開門。

Seven-character-quatrain

Liu Fangping

SPRING HEART-BREAK

With twilight passing her silken window,
She weeps alone in her chamber of gold
For spring is departing from a desolate garden,
And a drift of pear-petals is closing a door.

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七言絕句

柳中庸

征人怨

歲歲金河復玉關， 朝朝馬策與刀環。
三春白雪歸青塚， 萬里黃河繞黑山。

Seven-character-quatrain

Liu Zhongyong

A TROOPER'S BURDEN

For years, to guard the Jade Pass and the River of Gold,
With our hands on our horse-whips and our swordhilts,
We have watched the green graves change to snow
And the Yellow Stream ring the Black Mountain forever.

278

七言絕句

顧況

宮詞

玉樓天半起笙歌，風送宮嬪笑語和。
月殿影開聞夜漏，水晶簾捲近秋河。

Seven-character-quatrain

Gu Kuang

A PALACE POEM

High above, from a jade chamber, songs float half-way to heaven,
The palace-girls' gay voices are mingled with the wind --
But now they are still, and you hear a water-clock drip in the
Court of the Moon....
They have opened the curtain wide, they are facing the River of
Stars.

279

七言絕句

李益

夜上受降城聞笛

回樂峰前沙似雪， 受降城外月如霜。
不知何處吹蘆管， 一夜征人盡望鄉。

Seven-character-quatrain

Li Yi

ON HEARING A FLUTE AT NIGHT
FROM THE WALL OF SHOUXIANG

The sand below the border-mountain lies like snow,
And the moon like frost beyond the city-wall,
And someone somewhere, playing a flute,
Has made the soldiers homesick all night long.

280

七言絕句

劉禹錫

烏衣巷

朱雀橋邊野草花， 烏衣巷口夕陽斜。
舊時王謝堂前燕， 飛入尋常百姓家。

Seven-character-quatrain

Liu Yuxi

BLACKTAIL ROW

Grass has run wild now by the Bridge of Red-Birds;
And swallows' wings, at sunset, in Blacktail Row
Where once they visited great homes,
Dip among doorways of the poor.

281

七言絕句

劉禹錫

春詞

新妝宜面下朱樓， 深鎖春光一院愁。
行到中庭數花朵， 蜻蜓飛上玉搔頭。

Seven-character-quatrain

Liu Yuxi

A SPRING SONG

In gala robes she comes down from her chamber
Into her courtyard, enclosure of spring....
When she tries from the centre to count the flowers,
On her hairpin of jade a dragon-fly poises.

282

七言絕句

白居易

後宮詞

淚濕羅巾夢不成，夜深前殿按歌聲。
紅顏未老恩先斷，斜倚薰籠坐到明。

Seven-character-quatrain

Bai Juyi

A SONG OF THE PALACE

Her tears are spent, but no dreams come.
She can hear the others singing through the night.
She has lost his love. Alone with her beauty,
She leans till dawn on her incense-pillow.

283

七言絕句

張祜

贈內人

禁門宮樹月痕過，媚眼惟看宿鷺窠。
斜拔玉釵燈影畔，剔開紅燄救飛蛾。

Seven-character-quatrain

Zhang Hu

OF ONE IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY

When the moonlight, reaching a tree by the gate,
Shows her a quiet bird on its nest,
She removes her jade hairpins and sits in the shadow
And puts out a flame where a moth was flying.

284

七言絕句

張祜

集靈臺之一

日光斜照集靈台，紅樹花迎曉露開。
昨夜上皇新授籙，太真含笑入簾來。

Seven-character-quatrain

Zhang Hu

ON THE TERRACE OF ASSEMBLED ANGELS I

The sun has gone slanting over a lordly roof
And red-blossoming branches have leaned toward the dew
Since the Emperor last night summoned a new favourite
And Lady Yang's bright smile came through the curtains.

285

七言絕句

張祜

集靈臺之二

虢國夫人承主恩， 平明騎馬入宮門。
卻嫌脂粉污顏色， 淡掃蛾眉朝至尊。

Seven-character-quatrain

Zhang Hu

ON THE TERRACE OF ASSEMBLED ANGELS II

The Emperor has sent for Lady Guoguo.
In the morning, riding toward the palace-gate,
Disdainful of the paint that might have marred her beauty,
To meet him she smooths her two moth-tiny eyebrows.

286

七言絕句

張祜

題金陵渡

金陵津渡小山樓， 一宿行人自可愁。
潮落夜江斜月裡， 兩三星火是瓜州。

Seven-character-quatrain

Zhang Hu

AT NANJING FERRY

This one-story inn at Nanjing ferry
Is a miserable lodging-place for the night --
But across the dead moon's ebbing tide,
Lights from Guazhou beckon on the river.

287

七言絕句

朱慶餘

宮詞

寂寂花時閉院門，美人相並立瓊軒。
含情欲說宮中事，鸚鵡前頭不敢言。

Seven-character-quatrain

Zhu Qingyu

A SONG OF THE PALACE

Now that the palace-gate has softly closed on its flowers,
Ladies file out to their pavilion of jade,
Abrim to the lips with imperial gossip
But not daring to breathe it with a parrot among them.

288

七言絕句

朱慶餘

近試上張水部

洞房昨夜停紅燭， 待曉堂前拜舅姑。
妝罷低聲問夫婿， 畫眉深淺入時無。

Seven-character-quatrain

Zhu Qingyu

ON THE EVE OF GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS
TO SECRETARY ZHANG

Out go the great red wedding-chamber candles.
Tomorrow in state the bride faces your parents.
She has finished preparing; she asks of you meekly
Whether her eyebrows are painted in fashion.

289

七言絕句

杜牧

將赴吳興登樂遊原

清時有味是無能， 閒愛孤雲靜愛僧。
欲把一麾江海去， 樂遊原上望昭陵。

Seven-character-quatrain

Du Mu

I CLIMB TO THE LEYOU TOMBS
BEFORE LEAVING FOR WUXING

Even in this good reign, how can I serve?
The lone cloud rather, the Buddhist peace....
Once more, before crossing river and sea,
I face the great Emperor's mountain-tomb.

290

七言絕句

杜牧

赤壁

折戟沈沙鐵未銷， 自將磨洗認前朝。
東風不與周郎便， 銅雀春深銷二喬。

Seven-character-quatrain

Du Mu

BY THE PURPLE CLIFF

On a part of a spear still unruined in the sand
I have burnished the symbol of an ancient kingdom....
Except for a wind aiding General Zhou Yu,
Spring would have sealed both Qiao girls in CopperBird Palace.

291

七言絕句

杜牧

泊秦淮

煙籠寒水月籠沙， 夜泊秦淮近酒家。
商女不知亡國恨， 隔江猶唱後庭花。

Seven-character-quatrain

Du Mu

A MOORING ON THE QIN HUAI RIVER

Mist veils the cold stream, and moonlight the sand,
As I moor in the shadow of a river-tavern,
Where girls, with no thought of a perished kingdom,
Gaily echo A Song of Courtyard Flowers.

292

七言絕句

杜牧

寄揚州韓綽判官

青山隱隱水迢迢， 秋盡江南草未凋。
二十四橋明月夜， 玉人何處教吹簫。

Seven-character-quatrain

Du Mu

A MESSAGE TO HAN CHO THE YANGZHOU MAGISTRATE

There are faint green mountains and far green waters,
And grasses in this river region not yet faded by autumn;
And clear in the moon on the Twenty-Four Bridges,
Girls white as jade are teaching flute-music.

293

七言絕句

杜牧

遣懷

落魄江湖載酒行， 楚腰纖細掌中輕。
十年一覺揚州夢， 贏得青樓薄倖名。

Seven-character-quatrain

Du Mu

A CONFESSION

With my wine-bottle, watching by river and lake
For a lady so tiny as to dance on my palm,

I awake, after dreaming ten years in Yangzhou,
Known as fickle, even in the Street of Blue Houses.

294

七言絕句

杜牧

秋夕

銀燭秋光冷畫屏，輕羅小扇撲流螢。
天階夜色涼如水，坐看牽牛織女星。

Seven-character-quatrain

Du Mu

IN THE AUTUMN NIGHT

Her candle-light is silvery on her chill bright screen.
Her little silk fan is for fireflies....
She lies watching her staircase cold in the moon,
And two stars parted by the River of Heaven.

295

七言絕句

杜牧

贈別之一

娉娉嫋嫋十三餘， 豆蔻梢頭二月初。
春風十里揚州路， 卷上珠簾總不如。

Seven-character-quatrain

Du Mu

PARTING I

She is slim and supple and not yet fourteen,
The young spring-tip of a cardamon-spray.
On the Yangzhou Road for three miles in the breeze
Every pearl-screen is open. But there's no one like her.

296

七言絕句

杜牧

贈別之二

多情卻似總無情， 唯覺樽前笑不成。
蠟燭有心還惜別， 替人垂淚到天明。

Seven-character-quatrain

Du Mu

Parting II

How can a deep love seem deep love,
How can it smile, at a farewell feast?
Even the candle, feeling our sadness,
Weeps, as we do, all night long.

297

七言絕句

杜牧

金谷園

繁華事散逐香塵，流水無情草自春。
日暮東風怨啼鳥，落花猶似墜樓人。

Seven-character-quatrain

Du Mu

THE GARDEN OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY

Stories of passion make sweet dust,
Calm water, grasses unconcerned.
At sunset, when birds cry in the wind,
Petals are falling like a girl's robe long ago.

298

七言絕句

李商隱

夜雨寄北

君問歸期未有期， 巴山夜雨漲秋池。
何當共剪西窗燭， 卻話巴山夜雨時。

Seven-character-quatrain

Li Shangyin

NOTE ON A RAINY NIGHT TO A FRIEND IN THE NORTH

You ask me when I am coming. I do not know.
I dream of your mountains and autumn pools brimming all night with
the rain.
Oh, when shall we be trimming wicks again, together in your western
window?
When shall I be hearing your voice again, all night in the rain?

299

七言絕句

李商隱

寄令狐郎中

嵩雲秦樹久離居， 雙鯉迢迢一紙筆。
休問梁園舊賓客， 茂陵秋雨病相如。

Seven-character-quatrain

Li Shangyin

A MESSAGE TO SECRETARY LINGHU

I am far from the clouds of Sung Mountain, a long way from trees in
Qin;
And I send to you a message carried by two carp:
-- Absent this autumn from the Prince's garden,
There's a poet at Maoling sick in the rain.

300

七言絕句

李商隱

爲有

爲有雲屏無限嬌， 鳳城寒盡怕春宵。
無端嫁得金龜婿， 辜負香衾事早朝。

Seven-character-quatrain

Li Shangyin

THERE IS ONLY ONE

There is only one Carved-Cloud, exquisite always-
Yet she dreads the spring, blowing cold in the palace,
When her husband, a Knight of the Golden Tortoise,
Will leave her sweet bed, to be early at court.

301

七言絕句

李商隱

隋宮

乘興南遊不戒嚴， 九重誰省諫書函。
春風舉國裁宮錦， 半作障泥半作帆。

Seven-character-quatrain

Li Shangyin

THE SUI PALACE

When gaily the Emperor toured the south
Contrary to every warning,
His whole empire cut brocades,
Half for wheel-guards, half for sails.

302

七言絕句

李商隱

瑤池

瑤池阿母綺窗開， 黃竹歌聲動地哀。
八駿日行三萬里， 穆王何事不重來。

Seven-character-quatrain

LI SHANGYIN

THE JADE POOL

The Mother of Heaven, in her window by the Jade Pool,
Hears The Yellow Bamboo Song shaking the whole earth.
Where is Emperor Mu, with his eight horses running
Ten thousand miles a day? Why has he never come back?

303

七言絕句

李商隱

嫦娥

雲母屏風燭影深，長河漸落曉星沈。
嫦娥應悔偷靈藥，碧海青天夜夜心。

Seven-character-quatrain

Li Shangyin

TO THE MOON GODDESS

Now that a candle-shadow stands on the screen of carven marble
And the River of Heaven slants and the morning stars are low,
Are you sorry for having stolen the potion that has set you
Over purple seas and blue skies, to brood through the long nights?

304

七言絕句

李商隱

賈生

宣室求賢訪逐臣， 賈生才調更無倫。
可憐夜半虛前席， 不問蒼生問鬼神。

Seven-character-quatrain

Li Shangyin

JIASHENG

When the Emperor sought guidance from wise men, from exiles,
He found no calmer wisdom than that of young Jia
And assigned him the foremost council-seat at midnight,
Yet asked him about gods, instead of about people.

305

七言絕句

溫庭筠

瑤瑟怨

冰簟銀床夢不成， 碧天如水夜雲輕。

雁聲遠過瀟湘去， 十二樓中月自明。

Seven-character-quatrain

Wen Tingyun

SHE SIGHS ON HER JADE LUTE

A cool-matted silvery bed; but no dreams....

An evening sky as green as water, shadowed with tender clouds;

But far off over the southern rivers the calling of a wildgoose,

And here a twelve-story building, lonely under the moon.

306

七言絕句

鄭畋

馬嵬坡

玄宗回馬楊妃死， 雲雨難忘日月新。

終是聖明天子事， 景陽宮井又何人。

Seven-character-quatrain

Zheng Tian

ON MAWEI SLOPE

When the Emperor came back from his ride they had murdered Lady

Yang --

That passion unforgettable through all the suns and moons

They had led him to forsake her by reminding him
Of an emperor slain with his lady once, in a well at Jingyang
Palace.

307

七言絕句

韓偓

已涼

碧闌干外繡簾垂， 猩色屏風畫折枝。
八尺龍鬚方錦褥， 已涼天氣未寒時。

Seven-character-quatrain

Han Wu

COOLER WEATHER

Her jade-green alcove curtained thick with silk,
Her vermilion screen with its pattern of flowers,
Her eight- foot dragon-beard mat and her quilt brocaded in squares
Are ready now for nights that are neither warm nor cold.

308

七言絕句

韋莊

金陵圖

江雨霏霏江草齊， 六朝如夢鳥空啼。
無情最是臺城柳， 依舊煙籠十里堤。

Seven-character-quatrain

Wei Zhuang

A NANJING LANDSCAPE

Though a shower bends the river-grass, a bird is singing,
While ghosts of the Six Dynasties pass like a dream
Around the Forbidden City, under weeping willows
Which loom still for three miles along the misty moat.

309

七言絕句

陳陶

隴西行

誓掃匈奴不顧身， 五千貂錦喪胡塵。
可憐無定河邊骨， 猶是深閨夢裡人。

Seven-character-quatrain

Chen Tao

TURKESTAN

Thinking only of their vow that they would crush the Tartars- -
On the desert, clad in sable and silk, five thousand of them
fell....
But arisen from their crumbling bones on the banks of the river at
the border,
Dreams of them enter, like men alive, into rooms where their loves
lie sleeping.

310

七言絕句

張泌

寄人

別夢依依到謝家， 小廊回合曲闌斜。
多情只有春庭月， 猶爲離人照落花。

Seven-character-quatrain

Zhang Bi

A MESSAGE

I go in a dream to the house of Xie
Through a zigzag porch with arching rails
To a court where the spring moon lights for ever
Phantom flowers and a single figure.

311

七言絕句

無名氏

雜詩

盡寒食雨草萋萋， 著麥苗風柳映堤。
等是有家歸未得， 杜鵑休向耳邊啼。

Seven-character-quatrain

Wumingshi

THE DAY OF NO FIRE

As the holiday approaches, and grasses are bright after rain,
And the causeway gleams with willows, and wheatfields wave in the
wind,
We are thinking of our kinsfolk, far away from us.
O cuckoo, why do you follow us, why do you call us home?

312

樂府

王維

渭城曲

渭城朝雨浥輕塵， 客舍青青柳色新。
勸君更盡一杯酒， 西出陽關無故人。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Wang Wei

A SONG AT WEICHENG

A morning-rain has settled the dust in Weicheng;
Willows are green again in the tavern dooryard....
Wait till we empty one more cup --
West of Yang Gate there'll be no old friends.

313

樂府

王維

秋夜曲

桂魄初生秋露微，輕羅已薄未更衣。
銀箏夜久殷勤弄，心怯空房不忍歸。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Wang Wei

A SONG OF AN AUTUMN NIGHT

Under the crescent moon a light autumn dew
Has chilled the robe she will not change --
And she touches a silver lute all night,
Afraid to go back to her empty room.

314

樂府

王昌齡

長信怨

奉帚平明金殿開， 且將團扇共徘徊。
玉顏不及寒鴉色， 猶帶昭陽日影來。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Wang Changling

A SIGH IN THE COURT OF PERPETUAL FAITH

She brings a broom at dawn to the Golden Palace doorway
And dusts the hall from end to end with her round fan,
And, for all her jade-whiteness, she envies a crow
Whose cold wings are kindled in the Court of the Bright Sun.

315

樂府

王昌齡

出塞

秦時明月漢時關， 萬里長征人未還。

但使龍城飛將在，不教胡馬渡陰山。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Wang Changling

OVER THE BORDER

The moon goes back to the time of Qin, the wall to the time of Han,
And the road our troops are travelling goes back three hundred
miles....

Oh, for the Winged General at the Dragon City --
That never a Tartar horseman might cross the Yin Mountains!

316

樂府

王之渙

出塞

黃河遠上白雲間，一片孤城萬仞山。
羌笛何須怨楊柳，春風不度玉門關。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Wang Zhihuan

BEYOND THE BORDER

Where a yellow river climbs to the white clouds,
Near the one city-wall among ten-thousand-foot mountains,

A Tartar under the willows is lamenting on his flute
That spring never blows to him through the Jade Pass

317

樂府

李白

清平調之一

雲想衣裳花想容， 春風拂檻露華濃。
若非群玉山頭見， 會向瑤臺月下逢。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Li Bai

A SONG OF PURE HAPPINESS I

Her robe is a cloud, her face a flower;
Her balcony, glimmering with the bright spring dew,
Is either the tip of earth's Jade Mountain
Or a moon- edged roof of paradise.

318

樂府

李白

清平調之二

一枝紅~~香~~露凝香， 雲雨巫山枉斷腸。
借問漢宮誰得似， 可憐飛燕倚新妝。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Li Bai

A SONG OF PURE HAPPINESS II

There's a perfume stealing moist from a shaft of red blossom,
And a mist, through the heart, from the magical Hill of Wu- -
The palaces of China have never known such beauty-
Not even Flying Swallow with all her glittering garments.

319

樂府

李白

清平調之三

名花傾國兩相歡， 常得君王帶笑看。
解釋春風無限恨， 沉香亭北倚闌干。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Li Bai

A SONG OF PURE HAPPINESS III

Lovely now together, his lady and his flowers
Lighten for ever the Emperor's eye,
As he listens to the sighing of the far spring wind
Where she leans on a railing in the Aloe Pavilion.

320

樂府

杜秋娘

金縷衣

勸君莫惜金縷衣， 勸君惜取少年時。
花開堪折直須折， 莫待無花空折枝。

Folk-song-styled-verse

Du Qiuniang

THE GOLD-THREADED ROBE

Covet not a gold-threaded robe,
Cherish only your young days!
If a bud open, gather it --
Lest you but wait for an empty bough.
